

GOC Update on Truckers

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New information in bold, as of 12:00 EDT.

The following relates to a planned peaceful demonstration in Ottawa on 28-29 Jan. The Government Operations Centre (GOC) is monitoring the potential to affect Critical Infrastructure (CI) including Federal assets.

For information on planned traffic routes, please refer to the following webmap: [Link to webmap](#)
For near-real time updates on the city of Ottawa road closures and traffic updates, please refer to [Traffic.Ottawa.ca](#) and updates on @Ottawa_Traffic and @Ottawa_Circule.

Overview:

- * Effective 15 Jan, COVID-19 vaccination became mandatory for all truckers entering Canada from the United States to avoid a two-week quarantine and a negative COVID-19 test before arrival.
- * Similarly, beginning on 22 Jan, U.S. DHS began requiring non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.- Mexico and U.S.- Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals." [Link](#)

Key Points:

- * A number of Canadian truckers have planned a convoy with hopes of ending the mandatory vaccine mandate for truckers.
- * The convoys are aiming to arrive in downtown Ottawa by noon on 29 Jan, however some are anticipated to arrive as early as 28 Jan.
- * There are three main convoys (East, South and West) and some sub-convoys heading to Ottawa. **Total vehicles in convoys: 551**
- * Contacts for routes and timelines can be found on the organization's website: [Link](#)
 - * Eastern Convoy departed PEI on 27 Jan with 76 vehicles crossing the Confederation Bridge heading to Auluc, NB. to meet up with other Eastern convoys.
 - * Southern convoy, **currently 70 vehicles**: The Windsor and Samia Convoys merged into a single convoy before passing through London and the GTA attracting large groups of supporters roadside on its way to Kingston for the night. Convoy will depart for Ottawa on 28 Jan. Extensive traffic delays have been reported throughout the day along the route with the Convoy currently on HWY401. [Link](#)
 - * **A "Freedom Convoy" of truckers and supporters departed Kingston, ON shortly after 08:30 EDT.** [Link](#)
 - * The Western Convoy, **currently 471 vehicles**: Originating from BC, the convoy was traveling between Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie yesterday. [Link](#)
 - * **Sub convoys : Hearst convoy currently has 10 vehicles.**
 - * An estimate of 1000-2000 demonstrators are meeting at the Alexandria Bridge on the Quebec side and plan to cross over to Ottawa at 11:15 on Saturday.

- o On 28 Jan, truckers will be meeting at 3 Ports Of Entries (POE) (Saint-Theophile, Stanstead, and Saint-Bernard-de-Lacolle), and will drive on Highway 40 until Vankleek Hill ,ON, and will move onward to Ottawa on 29 Jan.
- o There are 500 trucks confirmed in the state of Maine as participating on the US side of the border and 300 trucks confirmed in NB to be participating on the highway 95, along with several personal vehicles. Commercial trucks are expected to block highway 95 while passenger vehicles are expected to block highway 555 from Beardsley Road. Transport trucks and individuals will arrive in Ottawa between 28-29 Jan.
- Additional demonstrations being planned across Canada.
 - o * "Slow roll" convoys at provincial and Canada/U.S. border crossing are being planned over the weekend. [Link](#)
 - o * In AB, those who cannot go to Ottawa are being encouraged to block the Coutts border, most likely on 28-29 Jan, and not move until the demands in Ottawa are met. (Source: comments on the Freedom Convoy 2020 Facebook page.)
 - o * In PEI, a Convoy plans to begin a slow roll demonstration at 13:00 EST on 29 Jan from the By-Pass and University Ave intersection down University Ave to the Cenotaph before dispersing.
 - o * NB is anticipating the following CI disruptions: Blockade of Woodstock NB and Houlton ME International Port of Entry, Blockade of Highway 2 at NB/NS border, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of Edmundston NB and Madawaska ME International Port of Entry, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of Perth Andover NB and Fort Fairfield ME international port of entry, Disruption/Traffic slowdown of highway 2 at NB/Quebec border.
 - o **In solidarity of the main convoy, demonstrations may take place at Federal buildings across Canada : Victoria, Legislative Assembly, Vancouver, Canada Place, Calgary, Prince Island Park, Edmonton, Legislature building, Regina, Legislative building, Winnipeg, The Forks, Toronto, Union Station, Montreal, Place des arts, Moncton, Riverfront Park, St John's, Harbourside Park.**
- * Canadian Truck Alliance (CTA) and the Atlantic Canadian Trucking Association do not support any protests on public roadways, highways, and bridges.
- * According to Open Sources, Freedom Convoy 2022, has raised over **\$6.2** million in fundraising in support of their cause. [Link](#)
- * As part of the protest, Canada Unity plans to present a request (MOU) to the Governor General and Senate for the removal of various COVID19 related Public Health Order restrictions.
- * Some supporters suggested they would not leave Ottawa until vaccine mandates for public servants, Canadian travelers and cross-border truckers are lifted.
- * An event Organizer stated the plan is to "gridlock the city, while leaving room for traffic to businesses and emergency vehicles to get through" while holding events with speakers at a yet to be disclosed stage location [Link](#)
- * OPP has said that it is working with those involved to minimize the impact to the public and ensure public safety. [Link](#)
- * Ottawa police now preparing for multiple groups coming to Ottawa with planning underway for a range of risks including counter-demonstrations, blocking of intersections, interfering with critical infrastructure, and unlawful activity.
- * Freedom Convoy 2022 organizer says the group won't tolerate extremists and instructed participants "If you see participants along the way that are misbehaving, acting aggressively in any way or inciting any type of violence or hatred, please take down the truck number and their license plate number so that we can forward that to the police," in response to fringe groups/people calling for destructive action. [Link](#)

- * A joint communication strategy is being developed by the City of Ottawa to ensure the public is informed of traffic and transit plans throughout the demonstration.
- * Ottawa police are planning for around 1,000 to 2,000 vehicles, while also noting the Freedom Convoy has so far been peaceful and cooperative with police and city officials in other jurisdictions.
 - * Convoy arriving from the west on the 417 will be directed to Sir John A MacDonald Parkway from the Pinecrest exit. Following this, Kent and Metcalfe exits will be used with vehicles directed to O'Conner as well. Demonstrators heading to 24 Sussex will be directed to take the Montreal exit to George Etienne parkway.
 - * The convoy arriving from the east on the 417 will have access to the George Etienne parkway via aviation parkway. They will then continue on to King Edward then Rideau to access the downtown core.
 - * Wellington will be closed between Metcalf and Lion with 3 lanes dedicated to the demonstration and the 4th lane for emergency vehicles.
 - * Near Vanier, old Jetform park will be used to park trucks and passenger vehicles with cabs and LRT available for demonstrators to get downtown.
 - * The trucks will be parked in the curb lane or at staging areas.
 - * The following road closures in the NCR were in place as of 11:00 EDT:
 - * **All lanes are closed at the Highway 417 eastbound on-ramp at Richmond /Bayshore Drive;**
 - * **Wellington westbound is reduced to one lane between Elgin and O'Connor;**
 - * **The right lane and shoulder are closed at the Highway 417 eastbound on-ramp at Highway 416;**
 - * **Elgin is reduced to two lanes in each direction between Wellington and Laurier due to preparations for the demonstration, and**
 - * **Laurier is reduced to 1 lane in each direction between Elgin and Nicholas due to preparations for demonstration.**
 - * Ottawa Public Health closed two vaccination clinics due to the Freedom Convoy Link

Assessment: (derived from information available on open sources) for the 28-29 Jan Demonstration in Ottawa:

- * Ottawa police assessment determines no need for people to stay home or for businesses to close due to the Convoy activities. They noted other elements including counter-protesters are harder to predict. [Link](#)
- * OPP is advising motorists to avoid travel on Hwy417 and Hwy416 in the Ottawa for Friday afternoon and Saturday due to major delays associated with the truck Convoy. [Link](#)
- * Ottawa Police, the OPP and the RCMP as well as the City of Ottawa, are aware of and are coordinating a response to the progress of the various convoys.
- * Since most government employees are working remotely, the disruption to government activities is expected to be minor.
- * INTERSECT is indicating that this will be a significant and extremely fluid event that could go on for a prolonged period.
- * Organizers of the protest have expressed the intent for a peaceful event, which is consistent with what has been seen in other areas where the convoy has stopped so far.

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